Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE 09/659,771 Application Number Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO September 11, 2000 Filing Date INFORMATION DISCLOSURE T. TABATA First Named Inventor APPLICANT STATEMENT 3626 Group Art Unit MAY 0 3 2004 BLECK, CAROLYN M. Examiner Name 00646/LH 1 Attorney Docket Number of U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Kind Name of Patentee or Publication Relevant Document Number Code² Applicant Date MM-DD-YYYY Portion Inits RECEIVED MAY 1 0 2004 **GROUP 3600** FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Kind Name of Patentee or Publication Relevant Cite No¹ T6 Date MM-DD-YYYY Portion Document Number4 Code⁵ Applicant Offc) Inits X* 05-49647 OLYMPUS OPTICAL 03-02-1993 JΡ Α CB CO. LTD ×× 08-164145 SUMITOMO BAKELITE 06-25-1996 Α CO. LTD 06-30-1998 X* JP 10-177325 Α RICOH CO. LTD X* 08-21-1998 JΡ 10-222568 Α HITACHI LTD *English Language Abstract only Date Examiner 7-27-04 Signature Considered

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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.